

REPUBLICANS' STRATEGY ON THE IRAQ DEBATE: CONFUSE, CONCEAL AND COMPLICATE THE ISSUE

"The debate should not be about the surge or its details. This debate should not even be about the Iraq war to date, mistakes that have been made, or whether we can, or cannot, win militarily. If we let Democrats force us into a debate on the surge or the current situation in Iraq, we lose."

*- Dear Colleague letter by Representatives John Shadegg (R-AZ)
and Pete Hoekstra (R-MI)*

Rob Bishop (R-UT): "Yesterday, I had the opportunity of going back to Baltimore and watching a play, ``Wicked." And in the play, the main character, the male lead, Fiero, is in love with Elphaba. And she tries to distance herself from him by saying, ``Yeah, but you're thoughtless and shallow." And Fiero says, ``I know, but I am a deep shallow.'"

Virgil Goode (R-VA): "I fear that radical Muslims who want to control the Middle East and ultimately the world would love to see "In God We Trust" stricken from our money and replaced with "In Mohammed We Trust."

Stevan Pearce (R-NM): "I am not talking about this war, I am talking about the civil war, when President Lincoln had the courage and the vision to hold onto that concept that we must let liberty triumph..."

Stevan Pearce (R-NM): "Thomas Jefferson goes to find out about the Barbary Coast. He comes back and he reads the letter about why the Barbary pirates were fighting everyone in that region."

Steve King (R-IA): "1784, American merchant marines were being attacked in the Mediterranean by Barbary pirates. In 1786, two diplomats, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, went over there to meet with them, and their idea was, we will be able to talk them into peace."

Jim Saxton (R-NJ): "We all remember looking at those old movies of wars in the 19th century. Warriors were trained in techniques aimed at defeating their foe's frontlines so as to prevail on the battlefield. There was little thought, planning, or training given to reaching beyond the frontlines in battle, much less to strike directly at central governments. Today, this strategy of warfare is called first-generation warfare."

Jim Saxton (R-NJ): "Now, I would like to turn to the third case study, the case study involving Somalia. In 1980, the Somalia Government becomes increasingly totalitarian and resistance movements emerge across the country, which leads to a civil war in 1991."

Dan Burton (R-IN): "Lord Chamberlain went to Munich in 1938. He signed a peace agreement on Herr Hitler's terms, gave the Sudetenland to him and said, Hey, if you don't go into Poland or Czechoslovakia, we'll let you have it."

Kay Granger (R-TX): "In 1862 debate over the Civil War threatened the success of the campaigns that our troops were engaged in. During the opening days of World War II, while the troops were engaged in a fight for their lives in the Pacific, Congress bickered over strategies of isolationism based in fear."